

Weekly Newsletter of Highland Baptist Church



HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

1101 Cherokee Road
Louisville, KY 40204



**HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH**

A thinking, feeling, healing
community of faith

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New Congregational Representatives

The Ministry Council of Highland Baptist Church is the primary body of elected church representatives who attend to the church business. The Ministry Council would like to thank Highland's church members for their participation by voting for the new Ministry Council congregational representatives. The vote is in and the new Ministry Council members are Lauren Blackwell (co-chair), Steve Brown, Lee Cave (filling an unexpired term), Hollan Holm, Robert Kahne, and Anita Roper.

The Ministry Council is responsible for the four Quarterly Church Conferences. The first Quarterly Church Conference for 2018 was held on Wednesday, January 10. Here are the remaining three scheduled Quarterly Church Conferences for 2018: Wednesday, April 11; Sunday, July 15; and Wednesday, October 3. Please mark your calendar so you, as a church member, can join and participate.

Weekend Services

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Jim England, Proclaimer

Anthem: *Have You Not Known*

Celebration of Holy Communion

Highlights Class Offered This Sunday

If you are a new or prospective member, you will want to attend the upcoming Highlights class on Sunday, February 4, 3:00-6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. This class is part of the process for becoming a member of Highland, and is offered several times a year. Nina Maples will lead this class which offers an in-depth look at topics such as how our church is structured, how to join, and how to be involved in ministry at Highland.

There will be a light dinner served, and childcare is provided with a **reservation**. For more information or to make a childcare reservation, contact Nina at nina@hbclouisville.org.

Black History Month: Youth and Anti-Racism Team Work Together!

This February, in celebration of Black History Month, the Anti-Racism Team and Youth Community will join to highlight some important figures from the broad, diverse stream of Black History in America. The figures will be displayed with installations including artwork and biographical information hanging on the stone wall between the sanctuary and stairs leading to the Youth Suite. The Youth Community will celebrate and educate one another throughout Black History Month in Bible Study and on Wednesday nights, while the Anti-Racism Team will continue their work to address the reality of racism as a pervasive and animating force in society to this very day. Education is an important first step, so we hope you will take time to remember and reflect on figures such as Bayard Rustin, the pacifist, human rights activist whose work included organizing the March on Washington (on notecards!) and advising Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and whose LGBT identity placed him at the forefront of intersectional advocacy during the Civil Rights Movement and beyond.



Pastor Search Update

Some of you are wondering, or even worrying, whether we've formed the Pastor Search Committee yet or not, wanting to be sure you haven't missed it. No, we haven't. We've had several other decisions in the pipeline that needed our attention, and we have a strong plan for the interim, so there is no reason to rush. Additionally, we need to experience Highland without Joe for a bit. But, we will begin the process in the weeks ahead. We will take time to seek nominations in several ways and settings, over several dates. We will do our best to assure there is no way you can miss it—just stay tuned.

Liminal Wonderings ...

I felt the Spirit hovering over us Sunday morning as the Word spoken and sung intertwined to form a sweet offering of praise and worship. What a gift to be present with you in this experience of communal worship.

On Saturday, I gathered with the chairs of our Ministry Groups, the Ministry Council, Deacons and staff to prepare ourselves for the ministry our church will do in the coming months. As we studied our Mission, Vision, and Core Values statements, we were reminded how blessed we are at Highland to continue in this work of Love.

One of the first experiences of the training involved tying people together in a three-by-three formation so that all were connected by a rope. The group then had to move from point A to point B and back to point A without coming detached from one another. They had to work together to get in the formation, to connect to one another, and then move in unison.

After we shared some amusing moments and got ourselves untied, we gathered to process the exercise.

We realized moving together without becoming disconnected can be difficult. We watched as some who are normally quiet in a group, emerged to lead the process. We realized there are multiple ways to achieve the same goal. We realized that turning a group of people around when they are tied to one another takes a lot of communication, coordination, and cooperation.

While we, as the church, are not literally tied together, we are bound together in our commitment to be a community of faith. At times like this past Sunday morning, it is a joy to participate as partners in our faith journey. At other times, when the path forward is not clear, or the means to move together have not yet appeared, it is more challenging to stay connected.

But I have faith in this body of believers, called Highland Baptist Church! We have walked together through some difficult times and became even more deeply connected—and we will continue to be joined together in Love and walk forward in these days ahead. I read this quote recently—“Both faith and fear require belief in something you can't see: pick one!” May we draw on our communal strength and faith to guide us as we are “*compelled by God's love to cultivate a safe, welcoming community of faith where all are challenged to discover, grow, and serve, as together we boldly live out the worship that is our very lives.*” ~ Nina

Do You Know Podcasts? Highland Needs You!

Building upon *The Cloud of Witness* series on Wednesday night, Highland is looking for members of our community with experience recording and publishing podcasts! We have many saints on the move among our cloud of witnesses here at Highland and each has a story to tell. Through storytelling and interviews, we hope to celebrate the life stories of a wide, diverse range of members. Some will be brief, others more in depth. Some will come from lifelong members and span decades of experience, others will come from those who have found new life with us more recently. Think Highland's own unique blend of *On Being* and *This American Life*. If you have knowledge you can share to get us pointed in the right direction, contact Perry at perry@hbclouisville.org!

Highland's Word To Our Community



Virtual Book Study for Parents

This spring, we hope to explore the possibility of hosting a virtual book study beginning in February for an hour or so during your lunch hour at work, once every two weeks! If you would be interested in participating, please contact Renee Purtlebaugh by January 31.

Children's Corner

Summer Camp Registration Coming Soon!

It is hard to imagine on these snowy, cold January days that summer is just around the corner. And yet, it's that time again—time to register your child(ren) for Vacation Bible School Camp (completed K-3rd grade) and PASSPORT *kids!* (completed 4th-5th grade). Mark the dates below in your calendar and watch for an email coming your way next week with registration forms, initial deposit amounts and how to sign up!

Bible Study Teacher Appreciation Month in February

Join us in February as we find ways to honor our Bible Study teachers at Highland, and specifically the teachers who guide and nurture your children in faith each week through Bible study, music, and mission. We invite you to make a donation to help us complete our *Building Love* capital campaign in honor of a beloved Bible study teacher, past or present. Please contact Deb Ackerson in the church office to make that designated donation, deb@hbclouisville.org.

You may want to consider other ways to show your appreciation for our children's teachers. For example, your family might choose to make homemade cards for your child's teachers, write a song or a poem or create a piece of beautiful artwork. Use your imagination as you think on how to honor the teachers in our midst. On the final Sunday of the month, the Families with Children Ministry Group will honor all of our teachers in a unique way.

The best part—you have an entire month to express your gratitude! A class list of Bible study teacher names will be available on the tables in the Nursery, Preschool and Children's Commons areas throughout the building. If you have questions, contact Renee at renee@hbclouisville.org.

Important Dates to Remember

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
March 25	Easter Festival
June 26-29	PASSPORT <i>kids!</i>
July 20-22	Vacation Bible School Camp



HBC Got Skillz!

Sunday, February 25, at Highlands Community Ministries. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Signups to share your amazing talent with the church and ticket sales start this Sunday after each worship service!

We hope you will join us, enjoy potluck chili and desserts, and vote with your money for your favorite act—all in support of the Youth Community's relationship with Touching Miami with Love and our broader mission and justice efforts!

Youth Corner

Summer Trip Meeting This Sunday!

This Sunday, February 4, at 12:30 p.m., in the Youth Suite, all parents and youth interested in our summer trips to Passport (all youth) and MissionBase DC (high school), are invited to this meeting for important information, especially if you are new to our group!

Theology on Tap, February 1

We will begin a three-part series on the Trinity. Lauren will lead the discussion about the Creator. Carol will guide us through discussion about the Redeemer in March, and Nina will point the way to the Sustainer in April. Join us this Thursday, 6:00 p.m., at Baxter 423.

Young Adult Corner

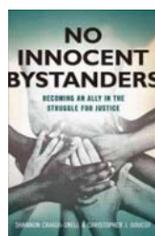
Super Bowl LII 2018

Our annual throw-down par-tay will be February 4. Joella's Hot Chicken provided. Bring a side dish to share. Whether you like the game, the commercials, the half-time show, or the party snacks, plan to join us at Ryan Eller and Laura Barclay's house. More info and rsvp at <https://www.facebook.com/events/146362159346569/>.

Wednesday Night Adult Programming

Winter Term: January 24, January 31, February 7

No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice (*Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell*): LPTS Professor of Theology Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell released *No Innocent Bystanders* this past fall as an invitation to help ally groups to understand what they can accomplish, what they can't, and what kind of humility and clarity is required to tell the difference. In partnership with Highland's Anti-Racism Team, Dr. Craigo-Snell will teach this 3-week course to help us explore how we work for justice not only with God but with our marginalized neighbors as well. Highland's Anti-Racism Team is providing some copies of *Innocent Bystanders* for purchase in Fellowship Hall for \$12.



The Worship that Is Our Very Lives (*Carol Harston*): In *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation*, James K. A. Smith writes, "We are what we love, and our loves is shaped, primed, and aimed by liturgical practices that take hold of our gut and aim our heart to certain ends." Every Sunday, Joe has sent us forth from worship with the same benediction: "We end this form of worship to begin the worship that is our very lives." Highland's mission as articulated in Vision 20/20 is to "boldly live out" this worship. What might that mean in our individual lives, our communal life, and our witness? Inspired by *Desiring the Kingdom*, Carol Harston will teach this 3-week course that explores how we might better understand our communal weekly worship and our daily worship as a training of our hearts to love God.

Visit <https://hbclouisville.org/2017/08/15/8260/> for a full Wednesday night schedule of classes for the Winter, Lenten, and Spring terms.

February 8: Libation Theology

Libation Theology provides an informal gathering time to share a meal, nurture communion with the larger faith family, and grow in our understanding of "the worship that is our daily lives." As one person said last month, Libation Theology provides the time to have conversations longer than the 5-minute ones we have in the hallway between worship services. Join us on Thursday, February 8, for our monthly Libation Theology at 6:30 p.m. This month, we will prepare ourselves for Lent by exploring how traditions of fasting and penitence can intersect with our own lives. We will gather in the loft area at Molly Malone's in St. Matthews (the corner of Shelbyville Road and Breckinridge Lane). No reservation required. For more information, contact Carol Harston, Lance Springs or Becki Streif.



**This Week
at Highland**

Tuesday, January 30

Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
Richard Rohr Book Study for Men (FS) 7:30-9 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Wednesday, January 31

Fellowship Supper (FH) 5:20-6 p.m.
Children's Activities 6-7:15 p.m.
Youth Group (Youth Suite) 6-7:15 p.m.
Adult Class—No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice (FH) ... 6:10-7:10 p.m.
Adult Class—The Worship That Is Our Very Lives (Commons) 6:10-7:10 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Thursday, February 1

Theology on Tap (Off-site) 6 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 7 p.m.

Friday, February 2

Friday Church (Sanctuary) 7-7:45 p.m.
Narcotics Anonymous (FH) 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 4

Worship 8:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study 11 a.m.
Bible Study Teachers' Gathering (FH, Stage) 12 p.m.
Worship MG (101) 12 p.m.
Youth Families Summer Trip Information (Youth Suite) 12 p.m.
True Colors MG (Commons) 12:30 p.m.
Highlights Class (FH) 3-6 p.m.
Food Justice Team (Commons) 5 p.m.
Food Justice Conversation about Fasting (Commons) 6 p.m.

Monday, February 5

Ministry Council (103) 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 6

Cream of the Crop Trip (Off-site) 12 p.m.
Emma Leachman Women's Group (103) 4 p.m.
Hope for a Brighter Day (FH) 5:30 p.m.
G.R.O.W. (103) 6 p.m.
Richard Rohr Book Study for Men (FS) 7:30-9 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous (FH) 10 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Highland

February	Teacher Appreciation Month
February 1	Theology on Tap
February 4	Highlights Class
February 6	Cream of the Crop Trip
February 8	Libation Theology
February 10	MensWork Breakfast
February 14	Ash Wednesday Service
February 21	Coro Vocati Choral Concert
February 25	HBC Got Skillz
March 1	Theology on Tap
March 8	Libation Theology

Wednesday Night Menus

January 31	February 7
Roasted Pork Tenderloin	Spaghetti & Meatballs
Green Beans	Broccoli
Scalloped Potatoes	Caesar Salad
Orange Jell-O Salad	Vegetable Salad
Spinach and Apple Salad	Garlic Bread
Rolls	Dessert
Dessert	

Adults: \$7; Children ages 4-12: \$3.50; Max per family: \$21

Reminder: If you have a reservation you are responsible to pay for it. Cancellations must be made *no later than 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before your reservation.* You may also contact the church office to make your reservations/cancellations.

This Week's Deacons (Communion)

Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Cheryl Davis (C), Mike McFall, Becky Smith

Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Kristie Abney, Nathan Marrs, Gene Streible (G), Tyler Swim (C)

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

David Bannister (C), Mary Burks, Bruce Carroll, Libby Cunningham, Jim McBee, Lewis Miller, Susan Pierce

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Cheryl Davis, John Foster (G), Allison French, Sharon Sanders, Kim Shippey (C), David Tucker, David Wells

Cream of the Crop Trip, February 6

Cream of the Crop is a group, retirement age and above, that gathers monthly. Our activities range from pot-lucks to trips to local places of interest.

We hope you will join us next Tuesday, February 6, as we gather at Derby City Antique Mall and have lunch at the Café at noon. RSVP to Joanne Taheri by this Friday, February 2, if you plan to attend. Please be sure to indicate whether you plan to meet us there or if you would like to carpool when you make your reservation.



Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Justice, Press Conference



Missions Corner

Special thanks to Highland members Carolyn King, Ryan Eller, Kate Dittmeier Holm, Roz Heinz, and Nancy Goodhue for representing us at the ICIJ press conference last week. We continue to partner and work for immigrant rights and safety. Check out a video of the press conference on our church facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hbclouisville.org/>. And be sure to "like" the ICIJ Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/icijlouisville/>.

Lobby Training, February 18, at 12:30 p.m.

As people of faith, we engage our political leaders and elected officials with a certain urgency and commitment to seeing God's justice in the public square. This clearly happens in a variety of ways—letter writing, postcard sending, calling state and national legislators, marching, rallying, etc.

Do you have interest in participating more in this type of activity? Are you a little nervous because you have never called Frankfort before? Do you wonder how you fit in with a different opinion or view on any particular issue? Would you like to attend the LGBTQ Fairness Campaign rally, but you are not sure if you will know anyone else there? Do you want to know what to say when visiting with a representative?

Then, we welcome you to attend Highland's LOBBY TRAINING on Sunday, February 18, at 12:30 p.m., in the Commons. Grab some lunch after worship concludes and together, while we eat, we will role-play, educate ourselves about various issues that are showing up in bills this session, as well as consider some dates that we might travel together to Frankfort.

Further, this does not compromise our tax exemption status. According to the Johnson Amendment, churches are only prohibited from endorsing political candidates. So, join us as we learn more about the issues, people who represent them, and how to approach them. More information about our lobby trainers is forthcoming.

Finally, if you'd like to attend a local, grassroots training of the same sort, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth is hosting one on Monday, February 5, 6:30-8:30, at First Unitarian Church. If you have questions, contact Becky Jones at 502-589-3188 or becky@kftc.org.

Upcoming Lobby Days in Frankfort

If you plan to attend any of these lobby days or if you would like to attend and need more information, contact Lauren and she can help connect you to the right people (laurenjm@hbclouisville.org).

- January 31—874K Disabilities Coalition, rally at 12:30 p.m.
- February 13—KY Student Environmental Coalition
- February 14—MOMS Demand Action for Gun Sense
- *February 21—Fairness Campaign (LGBTQ)
- *March 7—Immigrants and Refugees, rally at 12:30 p.m.
- * Members from Highland planning to attend.

Environmental Action Team, February 15

Highland's Environmental Action Team (E.A.T. and formerly known as the Sustainability Team) will have its next meeting on Thursday, February 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m., in room 103. E.A.T. was started in the fall of 2017 out of a growing concern over environmental issues as well as a sense of collective opportunity to make a difference. We are striving to reduce our church's carbon footprint, incorporate more ecological language and connections into worship, and, perhaps most importantly, educate our congregation about the ways that it can best take part in caring for creation. If you're interested, please come join us! Ben Self and Rachel Nally co-lead the team.

Tai Chi, Highlands Community Ministries

HCM will offer intermediate Tai Chi on Mondays 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Tai Chi for arthritis on Mondays 1-2 p.m.; and 16 postures on Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. or Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. Contact Jeff Graham, class instructor, with questions or to register at 502-836-5455.

Around Highland ...

... The Highland Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 4, 6:00 p.m., in room 103, to discuss *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson. Everyone is invited!

... HBC Office Support Volunteers are needed one half-day weekly to answer phones and greet visitors in the mornings 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or afternoons 1:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Joey Eubank if you are interested.